

U.S. Application No. 09/942,672
Client/Matter: 016795-0282906

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) An oil-based [[A]] formulation for desensitizing skin and hair follicles comprising:
 - a therapeutically effective amount of a topical anesthetic;
 - a solubilizer for solubilizing said topical anesthetic;
 - homopolymers;
 - copolymers; and
 - plant extract oils.
2. (previously presented) A formulation according to claim 1, further comprising a thickener.
3. (cancelled).
4. (previously presented) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said topical anesthetic is at least one member selected from the group consisting of benzocaine, lidocaine, and procaine.
5. (previously presented) A formulation according to claim 4, wherein said topical anesthetic is benzocaine.
6. (previously presented) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said solubilizer is at least one member selected from the group consisting of diethyl sebacate, diethyl adipate, diisopropyl adipate, dimethyl malonate, dibutyl sebacate, dibutyl adipate, diethyl pimelate, diethyl suberate, diethyl azelate, methyl ethyl succinate, and diethyl isosuccinate.
7. (previously presented) A formulation according to claim 6, wherein said solubilizer is diethyl sebacate or diethyl adipate.

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8. (previously presented) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said homopolymer is either polyethylene glycol or polypropylene glycol.

9. (previously presented) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said copolymer is polyvinylpyrrolidone-hexadecene.

10. (previously presented) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said plant extract oils comprise one or more members of a group consisting of tea tree oil, yling-ying oil, tangerine oil, chamomile oil, jasmine oil, Egyptian musk oil, sandalwood oil, coconut oil, and peppermint oil.

11. (previously presented) A formulation according to claim 10, wherein said plant extract oils provide fragrant properties to said oil-based formulation.

12. (previously presented) A formulation according to claim 2, wherein said thickener is white petroleum.

13. (previously presented) A formulation according to claim 4, wherein said homopolymer has a chain length in the range of about 400 to about 1000.

14. (previously presented) A formulation according to claim 5, wherein said copolymer has a molecular weight in the range of about 5000 amu to about 10,000 amu.

15. (previously presented) A formulation according to claim 5, wherein said copolymer is present in a range of about 7 to about 10 weight percent based on the weight of the total formulation.

16. (previously presented) A formulation according to claim 4, wherein said homopolymer is present in a range of about 20 to about 25 weight percent based on the weight of the total formulation.

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17. (previously presented) A formulation according to claim 10, wherein said plant extract oils are present in a range of about 11 to about 15 weight percent based on the weight of the total formulation.

18. (currently amended) A formulation according to ~~claim 1~~ claim-3, wherein said solubilizer is present in a range of about 30 to about 40 weight percent based on the weight of the total formulation.

19. (previously presented) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said formulation is a lotion.

20. (currently amended) A method of desensitizing the scalp prior to a hair treatment, comprising:

~~applying a topical anesthetic containing an oil-based composition comprising a topical anesthetic and at least one polymer~~ to the scalp prior to applying the hair treatment; and

allowing the composition to remain on the scalp enough time to desensitize the treated area,

wherein the ~~topical anesthetic-containing~~ composition contains a therapeutically effective amount of a topical anesthetic.

21. (currently amended) A method of desensitizing the skin comprising applying to the skin an oil-based ~~[[a]]~~ formulation comprising:

a therapeutically effective amount of a topical anesthetic;

a solubilizer for solubilizing said topical anesthetic;

homopolymers;

copolymers; and

plant extract oils.

22. (currently amended) A method of desensitizing a hairy area of the skin and/or the scalp comprising:

~~applying an oil-based a topical anesthetic-containing composition comprising a topical anesthetic and at least one polymer~~ to the hairy area of the skin and/or the scalp prior to applying a hair treatment;

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permitting said composition to remain on the hairy area of the skin and/or the scalp
thereby desensitizing the hairy area of the skin and/or the scalp; and
removing said composition from the hairy area of the skin and/or the scalp.

23. (currently amended) A method according to claim 22, wherein said ~~topical~~
~~anesthetic-containing~~ composition comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a topical
anesthetic.

24. (previously presented) A method according to claim 22, further comprising
performing a hair treatment procedure to the hairy area of the skin and/or the scalp after the
composition is applied to the hairy area of the skin and/or the scalp.

25. (previously presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein the topical
anesthetic is a chemical selected from a caine family of chemicals.